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Subject: POIB Up-date
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Hello Everyone,

The last few weeks have been an absolute whirlwind for many in POIB. Great work has been done – this is just a quick up-date on a few matters.

1. FREEDOM CONVOY:

- a. The evolution of the disparate components that united to comprise the Freedom Convoy, and the associated public safety challenges across the province, are an excellent example to review in terms of the intelligence mandate and its ability prevent, detect, deter and/or lead to investigate. There are many forms of intelligence failures – failures to collect, failure to evaluate, failure to analyze correctly, failure to share and failure to act. We have done a preliminary assessment of these matters (and it is a very positive reflection on your work) but will conduct a more fulsome, formal de-brief. I sent a comprehensive overview to the Deputy and Commissioner on this – to illustrate what we predicted, why, and how it was communicated). While no endeavor is perfect, POIB performed very well in this endeavor. The strategic recognition, the partnership building, the collection, intelligence production and the accuracy of analytical assessments were prescient. Your members were national leaders and provided daily briefs to Commissioners, Chiefs of Police and OACP Tactical Planners to determine deployments. The contributions were phenomenal and have been recognized by our colleagues nationally.

2. Inter-Operability and Teamwork:

- a. Events such as these illustrate challenges and, in the rear view mirror, I hope that we can all find improvements for the future – I know that I can. **However**, they also provide an arena to illustrate the magnificent capacity for seamlessness and inter-operability of the persons in POIB. IOS and PATS, together with COS, CIPS and PSS have worked jointly on a wide array of priorities – from crowd insertions, surveillance, static observations, covert ops, communications in CPs, difficult de-confliction with partners, massive collation and huge intelligence production for hundreds of clients. In these times, Section lines are diminished and operational shifts occur to reflect new and ever-changing priorities. And while this affected your colleagues directly and continually, this is not only POIB – we reached out for assistance to partners in IPB, OCEB, TSB, Digital Forensics, CIB, etc and they all assisted immediately. There were a few instances where this cooperation was critical and led to rapid operational successes in volatile instances.
- b. In terms of Teamwork – we will continue our Regional Meetings with a session in WR slated for March. This had been delayed (by 2 weeks) due to the operational activity.

3. INTELLIGENCE REQUIREMENTS:

- a. Some find challenging the constantly shifting priorities of POIB, or perhaps the need to set their priorities aside for the priorities of other areas – one might ask: What is our priority? It is a fair question and it can be frustrating and I have felt that way at times and continue to feel that way at times. But, I cannot see a time when this will change. As a Bureau within an organization of 10,000 employees, and as the provincial police in a province of approximately 50 police services and 13 million citizens, I can promise that our priorities will be constantly shifting. Our profession, our organization and our Bureau will communicate these as “Intelligence Requirements”. These requirements may have application across section boundaries and communicate informational needs to address organizational priorities.

4. ELECTION and PSS:

- a. A provincial election will be occurring in June 2022. In the last year, and paralleling the growth of civil unrest, the threats against public persons, elected officials etc, has spiked dramatically. Just this week 65 new files were opened as to threats against MPs – and this is occurring in Ontario as well. Our PSS is fully integrated in our information collection and intelligence production – to serve our mandate in relation to the protection of these individuals.
- b. Moving forward: Please consider any threats to Premier, LG, Cabinet Members, Leaders of Opposition, MPPs, or their residences and/or constituency offices as an INTELLIGENCE REQUIREMENT. Include D/Sgt Dave O’Leary and Analyst James Cook in your dissemination.

5. RUSSO-UKRAINIAN CONFLICT:

- a. It goes without saying that the events in Ukraine are tragic, regrettable and were potentially preventable. Conflicts such as this hit home for some of us more than others might depending upon our perspective, nationality, familial roots, etc. – much like the conflict in Syria, Afghanistan and others. I myself spent 3 years of my life between Russian, Poland and Ukraine and have many friends there today. If you are Ukrainian, or have family/friends there, or (as some of our members have) you have worked there in deployments, our thoughts and prayers are with you in hoping for a quick end to the hostilities and casualties.
- b. In terms of operations, it is anticipated that there will be significant protests – both for peace and against Russia. Further, there will be acts of criminality against persons and property in relation to this activity. At a high end, there will undoubtedly be (as there has been) a degree of foreign-influence activity (i.e. cyber activity) given Canada’s stated opposition to the military actions of the Russian state. Please forward any activity of this nature – where required it will be forwarded to the appropriate client for awareness and action.

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Thank-you everyone – have a great weekend,
Pat
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